

# Yontoo Adware - what it is, signs to watch for, and how to remove it

Gridinsoft Help Center

## What it is

Yontoo is adware for Windows and Mac that comes as "helpful" web apps or browser add-ons (like downloaders or video helpers). Once installed, it can hijack your browser (change search/homepage), track what you do online, and flood pages with shady ads. Background and cleanup notes: <https://gridinsoft.com/threats/yontoo>

## Why it matters

Extra ads and tracking slow your browser, hurt privacy, and can lead to more risky downloads or fake updates.

## How it works

- Bundle: rides along with free installers or "video downloader" extensions.
- Hijack: swaps your search/homepage and injects ads into pages.
- Track: logs sites you visit and clicks for ad targeting.
- Persist: adds startup tasks or re-installs via helper apps.

## Red flags

- Search engine or homepage changes on its own.
- New toolbar/extension appears after installing an unrelated app.
- More pop-ups and "recommended" links than usual.
- Browser feels slow; unknown processes run at startup.

## Do it right

- Remove suspicious extensions from all browsers; uninstall unknown apps.
- Reset browser settings; clear cache and site data.
- Run a full scan with reputable anti-malware.
- Reinstall only from official stores/vendor sites; skip "optional offers."
- Keep the OS, browsers, and security tools updated.